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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

07-ESQ-104

JUN 27 2007

Mr. C. M. Murphy, President
and Chief Executive Officer
Fluor Hanford, Inc.
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Murphy:

CONTRACT NO. DE-AC06-RL13200 – APPROVAL OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR
INSTALLATION OF “NO TRESPASSING” SIGNS, 600 AREA, HANFORD SITE,
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your letter (FH-0701319.1) requesting
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office’s review and approval of the subject
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion dated June 11, 2007. The
Categorical Exclusion was signed by the NEPA Compliance Officer on June 18, 2007: attached
is a signed copy of the Categorical Exclusion. If you have any questions, please contact me or
your staff may contact Joe R. Franco, Assistant Manager for the River Corridor, (509) 376-6628.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Weis
Acting Manager

ESQ:RWR

Attachment

cc w/attach:

M. T. Jansky, FHI
J. L. Nuzum, FHI
M. S. Strickland, FHI
G. H. Hughes, USFWS
Administrative Record
Environmental Portal, LMSI, A3-01

RECEIVED
JUN 28 2007
EDMC

Attachment
07-ESQ-104

Categorical Exclusion for Installation of "No Trespassing" Signs,
600 Area, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR
INSTALLATION OF "NO TRESPASSING" SIGNS
600 AREA, HANFORD SITE, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON**

Proposed Action

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), needs to limit public access to DOE-owned land. The installation of "No Trespassing" signs around the perimeter of the Riverlands Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument would provide a passive and cost-effective means to provide additional awareness to the public of limited access to the area.

Location of Action

600 Area, Riverlands Unit, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington. The Riverlands Unit is located in the northwest corner of the Hanford Site, bordered by State Highway 24, the Columbia River, and private land in the Cold Creek Valley (Figure 1).

Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action would involve installation of additional "No Trespassing" signs around the perimeter of the Hanford Site Riverlands Unit. The perimeter is approximately 46,000 linear feet; additional signs would be placed along the north, south, and west perimeter. Approximately 125 signs would be installed. The signs would be placed on metal poles driven into the ground to a depth of less than approximately two feet.

Construction activities are scheduled to start in FY 2007 and be completed in FY 2007.

Categorical Exclusion (CX) to be Applied

The following CX is listed in Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1021, "National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures," Subpart D, Appendix B, published in the Tuesday, July 9, 1996, 61 Federal Register 36222:

B1.11 Installation of fencing, including that for border marking, that will not adversely affect wildlife movements or surface water flow.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Since there are no extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal, the proposed activity meets the eligibility criteria of 10 CFR 1021.410(b), as shown in the following table. The proposed activity is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts [40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)], or with cumulatively significant impacts [40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 10 CFR 1021.211.

The "Integral Elements" of 10 CFR 1021 are satisfied as discussed below.

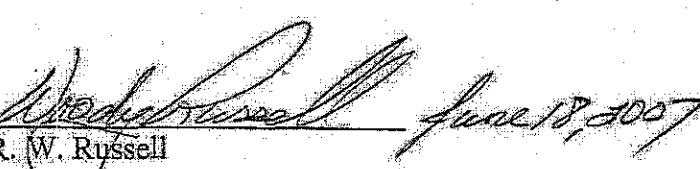
INTEGRAL ELEMENTS 10 CFR 1021, SUBPART D, APPENDIX B	
Would the Proposed Action:	Comment or explanation:
Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders?	No applicable laws, regulations, or orders would be violated by the proposed actions.
Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment facilities (including incinerators)? The proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment actions.	Wastes generated during the proposed action would not require expansion/modification of existing waste management facilities.
Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases?	No. There would be no uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.
Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources including, but not limited to:	None of the environmentally sensitive resources listed (i through vii) will be adversely affected.
(i) Property (e.g., sites, buildings, structures, objects) of historic, archeological, or architectural significance designated by Federal, state, or local governments or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places	
(ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat), Federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat or state-listed endangered or threatened species or their habitat	
(iii) Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and floodplains	
(iv) Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges, and marine sanctuaries	
(v) Prime agricultural lands	
(vi) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region)	
(vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rainforests?	

CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES REVIEWS

A cultural resources review specifically for the project was conducted [E-mail, E. Prendergast-Kennedy, PNNL, to R. Ingram, et al. "Notice to Proceed for Installation of No Trespassing Signs at Riverlands's Area (HCRC#2007-600-019a)"]. Per 36 CFR Part 800, Subpart B, 800.3.a, the RL Cultural Resources Program has determined that this project is not the type of undertaking with potential to cause effects to historic properties and no further actions are required. A qualified archaeologist may be present to provide cultural resource monitoring to assure known cultural resource features are avoided. Additionally, all workers will be directed to watch for cultural materials (e.g., bones, artifacts) during all work activities. If any such materials are encountered, work in the vicinity of the discovery would stop pending any necessary mitigation.

Two biological reviews specifically for the project were conducted. One dealt with placement of signs along the perimeter of the Riverlands Area where existing roads provide access for vehicles (Letter, M. Sackschewsky, PNNL, to R. Ingram, FH, "Biological Review of the Project to Secure the Riverlands Area – Posting "No Trespassing" Signs Along Riverlands Perimeter, ECR #2007-600-019A-Part 1," dated May 29, 2007). A second review (Letter, M. Sackschewsky, PNNL, to R. Ingram, FH, "Biological Review of the Project to Secure the Riverlands Area – Posting "No Trespassing" Signs Along Riverlands Perimeter, ECR #2007-600-019A-Part 2," dated June 4, 2007) addressed placement of signs along the perimeter where no existing roads (paved, graveled or unimproved two-track) provide access for vehicles necessary to accomplish the sign placement. Both reviews indicated that no plant or animal species protected under the Endangered Species Act, candidates for such protection, or species listed by the Washington State government as threatened or endangered are likely to be impacted by project activities. It is recommended that travel by vehicle to proposed locations for signage should be done on existing roadways where feasible. Further, although no bird nests were observed, killdeer, western meadowlark and horned lark typically nest in habitats present in the project area. Project personnel should be observant for potential ground nesting birds when conducting field activities during the March 1 to July 15 nesting season.

Compliance Action: I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the referenced CX. Therefore, using the authority delegated to me by DOE Order 451.1B, Change 1, I have determined that the proposed activities may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Signature/Date: 
R. W. Russell
Hanford NEPA Compliance Officer

cc:

R. L. Ingram, FH
M. T. Jansky, FH
B. B. Nelson-Maki, FH
A. L. Rodriguez, RL
R. G. Slocum, FH
C. W. Stolle, FH
R. S. Weeks, PNNL

The following checklist summarizes environmental impacts that were considered

IMPACT TO AIR

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
1.	Result in more than minor and temporary gaseous discharges to the environment?		X
2.	Release other than nominal and temporary particulates or drops to the atmosphere?		X
3.	Result in more than minor thermal discharges?		X
4.	Increase offsite radiation dose to >0.1 mrem (40 CFR 61 Subpart H)?		X

IMPACT TO WATER

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
5.	Discharge any liquids to the environment?		X
6.	Discharge heat to surface or subsurface water?		X
7.	Release soluble solids to natural waters?		X
8.	Provide Interconnection between aquifers?		X
9.	Require installation of wells?		X
10.	Require a Spill Prevention Countermeasure and Control Plan (40 CFR 112 and 761)?		X
11.	Violate water quality standards (WAC 713-200, Table 1)?		X

IMPACT TO LAND

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
12.	Conflict with existing zoning or land use?		X
13.	Involve hazardous, radioactive, PCB, or asbestos waste?		X
14.	Cause erosion?		X
15.	Require an excavation permit?		X
16.	Disturb an undeveloped area?		X

GENERAL

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
17.	Disturb Arid Lands Ecology or Wahluke Slope Reserves?		X
18.	Cause other than a minor increase in noise level?		X
19.	Make a long-term commitment of large quantities of nonrenewable resources?		X
20.	Require new utilities or modifications to utilities?		X
21.	Use pesticides, carcinogens, or toxic chemicals?		X
22.	Require a radiation work permit?		X

Items marked "yes" in the Environmental Impact Checklist located above, are addressed in the following paragraphs:

15. Before starting work, an excavation permit would be required. The excavation permit would be consistent with the biological and cultural resources reviews identified previously.

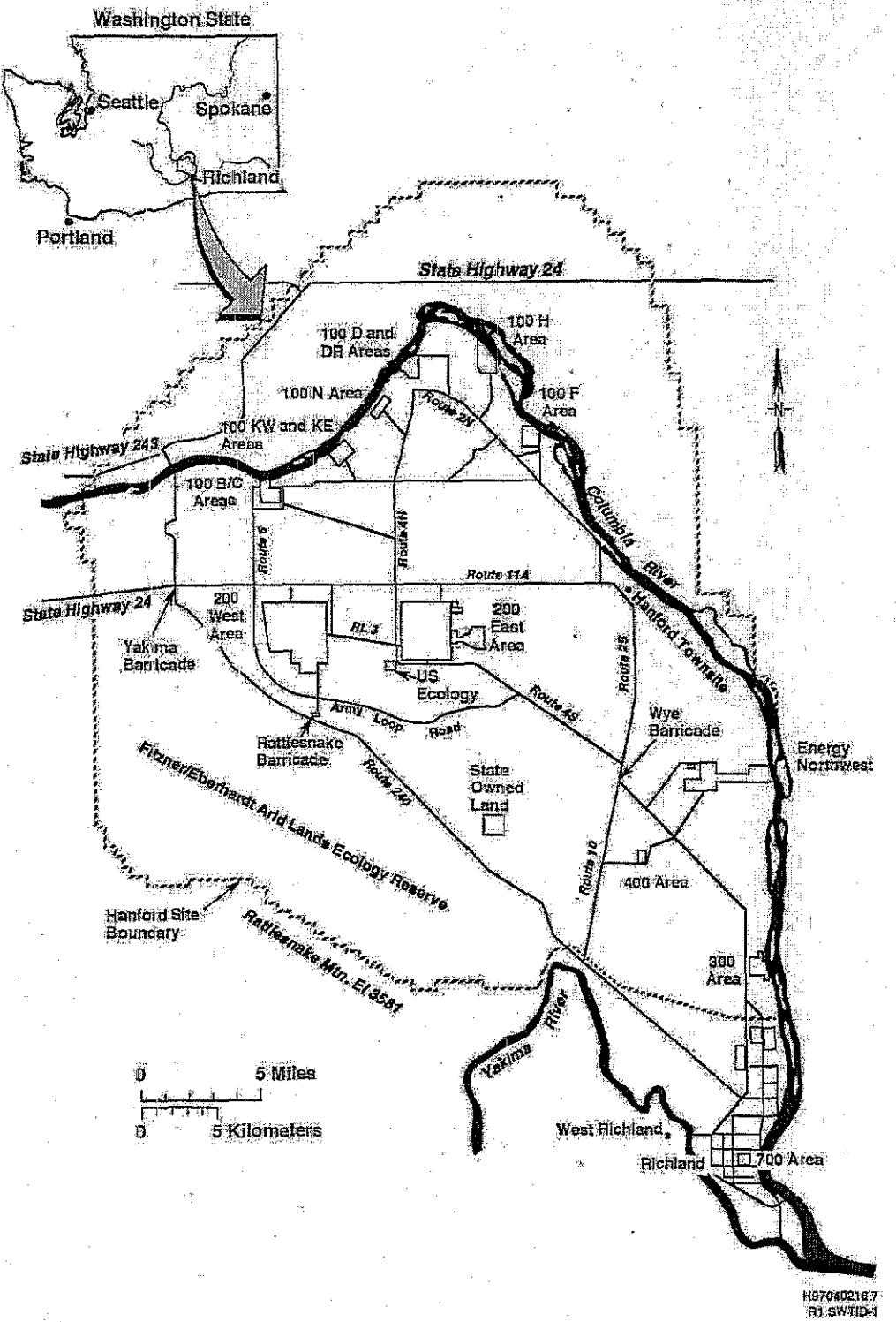


Figure 1. Hanford Site.